

**A PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF 1-BENZYL-4-(5,6-DIMETHOXY-1-INDANON)-2-YL) METHYL PIPERIDINE HYDROCHLORIDE (DONEPEZIL HCl)**

Abstract of the Disclosure

A process for the preparation of 1-benzyl-4-[(5,6-dimethoxy-1-indanon)-2-yl] methyl piperidine hydrochloride (Donepezil HCl) is disclosed. 5,6-Dimethoxy-2-(pyridin-4-yl) methylene inda-1-one is hydrogenated with a noble metal catalyst or a non-oxide derivative of a noble metal catalyst in a solvent at 20-100°C and 10-90 psi gauge pressure. The resulting 4-[(5,6-dimethoxy-1-indanon)-2-yl] methyl piperidine is alkylated with an alkylating agent in an organic solvent at 20-80°C.

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